



REPORT TO: MORAY INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD AUDIT, PERFORMANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE ON 27 JUNE 2024

SUBJECT: EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2023/24

BY: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To inform the Committee of the Auditor's Annual Plan for 2023/24.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers and notes the contents of the External Auditor's Annual Plan for 2023/24.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In September 2022, Grant Thornton was confirmed as the external auditor of the Moray Integration Joint Board (MIJB). The appointment was for financial years 2022/23 to 2026/27 inclusive.

3.2 Grant Thornton were appointed by the Accounts Commission to deliver the public audit for Moray, they will provide independent assurance to the people of Scotland that public money is spent appropriately and provides value. Audit work is carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, the Code of Audit Practice <https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications/code-of-audit-practice-2021> and any other relevant guidance.

4. KEY MATTERS RELEVANT TO RECOMMENDATION

4.1 An Annual Audit Plan for 2023/24 has been received from Grant Thornton and is attached at **APPENDIX 1** to this report. The Plan sets out the scope of the audit work and the auditors' approach to the audit. The Plan details the initial risks identified by Grant Thornton and planned work to be undertaken for the audit of the financial statements for the year ending 2023/24. Grant Thornton also aim to add value to the MIJB through its work.

4.2 The Audit Plan identifies the main risks for the MIJB which will be the focus of audit testing and are outlined in page 9 of the Plan. In order to assist with the

assessment of risk, an Informing the Audit Risk Assessment was completed by senior managers and is attached at **APPENDIX 2**.

- 4.3 On page 5 of the Audit Plan, Grant Thornton has shown the External Audit fee for 2023/24 as being £34,360 (£31,470 for 2022/23) and represents a 6% increase on the previous year.
- 4.4 The annual accounts timetable, including key deadlines are shown on page 7 of the audit plan and requires the MIJB to submit the Unaudited Annual Accounts along with supporting working papers to Grant Thornton by 30 June 2024 following consideration by those charged with governance at the meeting of the MIJB on 27 June 2024. The MIJB will be asked to approve the audited annual accounts and to consider the Annual Audit Report at its meeting of 26 September 2024.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)) and MIJB Strategic Commissioning Plan ‘Partners in Care’ 2022 – 2032

The work undertaken by External Audit seeks to provide assurance to the MIJB on the financial governance and resource management. It will express a view on the key risks to be managed in order to secure operational efficiency in line with the Strategic Plan 2022-32.

(b) Policy and Legal

The external audit is conducted in terms of statutory powers afforded to the appointed External Auditor and in accordance with Grant Thorntons Code of Practice.

(c) Financial implications

The annual audit fee set for 2023/24 by Grant Thornton and paid by the MIJB is £34,980.

(d) Risk Implications and Mitigation

The risks associated with the Audit Plan have been identified and categorised within the Plan on page 9.

(e) Staffing Implications

Preparation of the MIJB’s financial statements will require input and coordination from the MIJB Chief Financial Officer and the finance teams of both Moray Council and NHS Grampian which forms part of the scheduled work.

(f) Property

None arising directly from this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

None arising directly from this report as there has been no change to policy.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

None arising directly from this report.

(i) Directions

None arising directly from this report.

(j) Consultations

The content of the Plan has been discussed with the Interim Chief Officer, Chief Internal Auditor and Senior Managers prior to production and their comments have been incorporated where appropriate.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The Annual Audit Plan informs the MIJB, its Committees and officers of the work to be undertaken by External Audit (Grant Thornton) in the year ahead.

Author of Report: Deborah O'Shea

Background Papers: with author

Ref: